

# Accidents Caused By Improper Maintenance

## Employee Killed When Struck By Pipes Rolling Off Forklift

Employee #1 was using a powered industrial truck to move drill pipes around a storage yard. The pipes were 31 ft long and weighed 20 lb per ft. Employee #1 backed up with a load of 11 pipes and then dismounted to rearrange boards in front of the fork truck in preparation for the next trip to the horizontal pipe rack. He left the load tilted back and elevated about 8 ft. While Employee #1 was working in front of the fork truck, the tilting mechanism bled down, causing the pipes to roll off the forks strike him on the back of the head. He was killed instantly.

## Employee's Fingers Injured When Forklift Mast Drops

Employee #1 and a coworker were using a fork lift truck, serial #380627, with an attached wooden pallet as a personnel lift to place large boxes on a storage shelf. Employee #1 was standing on the unguarded pallet and her coworker was operating the fork lift. While they were working, a telephone rang, and the coworker shut off the engine, set the brake, and went to answer it. The coworker did not, however, lower the load to the ground. Employee #1 finished placing the boxes on the shelf and then turned to face the mast of the fork lift. While waiting for the coworker to return, she placed both her hands on top of the truck frame to steady herself. The mast section suddenly dropped, and both of her hands were smashed between the mast and the frame. Employee #1 suffered a hairline fracture of the first finger of her left hand, crushing injuries to the first and ring fingers of her right hand, and amputation of the lower half of her right thumb. Neither Employee #1 nor her coworker had been trained in fork lift operations.

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